20 YEARS OF IDW

ISSUE 18

COVER A

SONIC™

THE HEDGEHOG

VS The

WORLDS OF THE METAL VIRUS!

SEGA®

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Special thanks to Anoulay Tsai, Mai Kiyotaki, Aaron Webber, Michael Cisneros, Sandra Jo, and everyone at Sega for their invaluable assistance.

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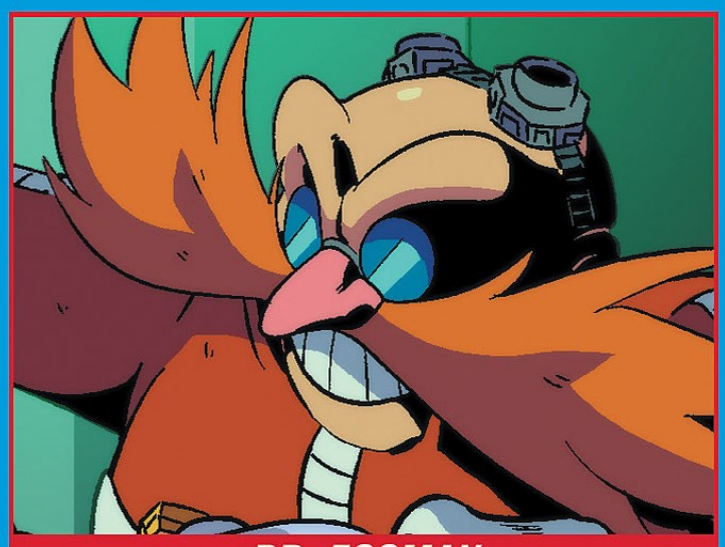
TORY SO FAR..

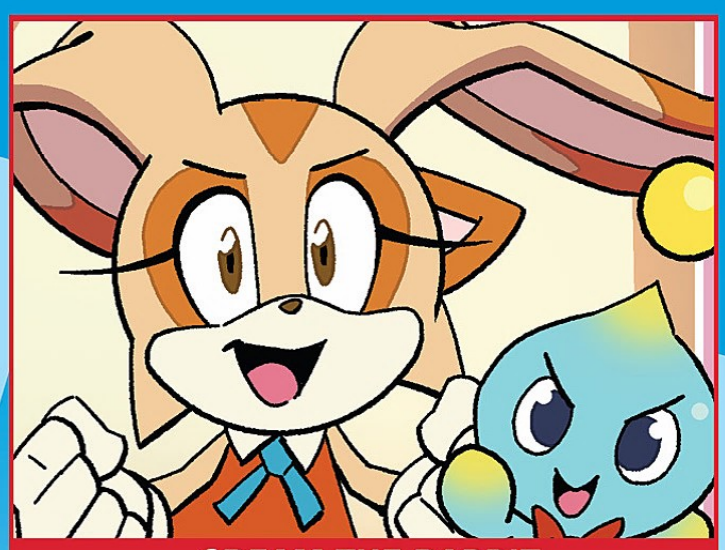
gman has returned with one of his most sinister plots yet: th
Virus! The Metal Virus infects living organic matter and turns
ombie-like robots (Zombots) that can infect others and respo
o Eggman's command. Cities and heroes—including Sonic
lf—have already been infected by Eggman's virus, though o
has been able to resist full infection. Now, Eggman's Faces
a course for Cream the Rabbit's home of Floral Forest Villag

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
The Blue Blur.
Fastest thing alive.

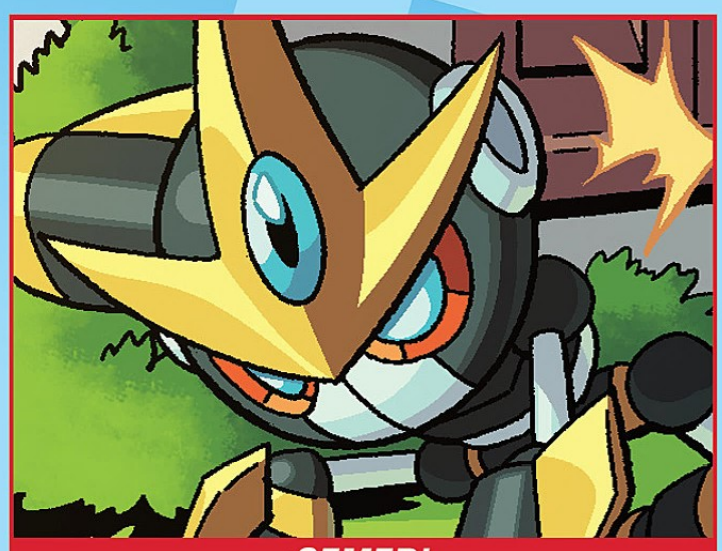


DR. EGGMAN
Mad Genius Restored.
Eggman Empire.

DR. STARLINE
Aspiring Villain.
Eggman Empire.

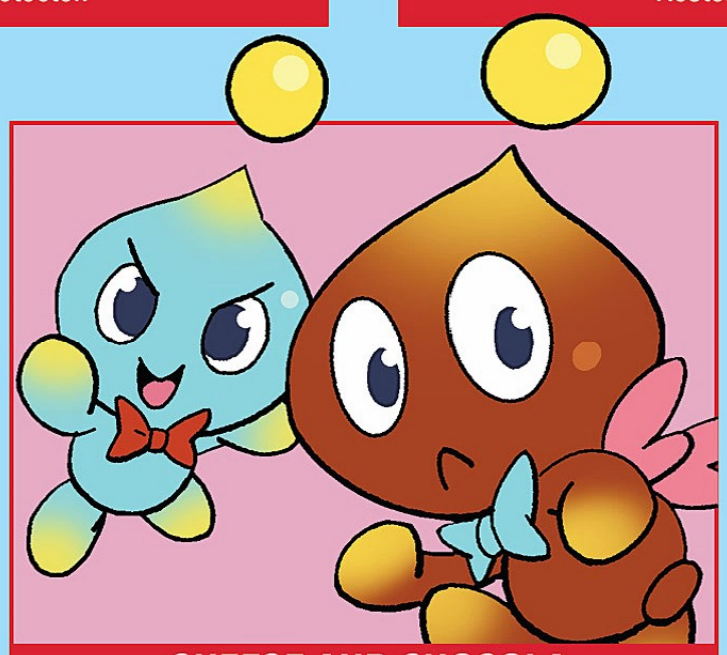


CREAM THE RABBIT
Gentle Heroine.
Restoration ally.



GEMERL
Reformed Robot.
Cream's Protector.

VANILLA THE RABBIT
Loving Mother.
Restoration ally.



CHEESE AND CHOCOLA
Cream and Vanilla's Companions.
Child-like Chao.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND, DOCTOR.

THIS VILLAGE IS TOO REMOTE TO BE OF ANY STRATEGIC VALUE. WHY ARE WE GOING OUT OF THE WAY TO INFECT IT?

IT'S TWOFOLD, MY DEAR STARLINE. ONCE FULLY CONVERTED, THIS LUSH SPACE WILL BECOME A VERITABLE MINEFIELD OF METAL VIRUS INFECTION VECTORS THAT NOT EVEN *SONIC* CAN AVOID!

AND HE'LL STILL RUN *RIGHT* INTO IT ALL BECAUSE HE HAS SOME DEAR FRIENDS HERE! WHAT BETTER WAY TO BREAK HIS WILL...

FLORAL FOREST VILLAGE.

...THAN TO HIT HIM WHERE IT HURTS! HAVING FUN, SONIC?! *HA HA HA HA HA!*

WHEN I'M DONE DOWN HERE, WE'RE GONNA HAVE *WORDS*, EGGMAN!

TOO MUCH GOING ON. GOTTA *FOCUS*.

I'VE STILL GOT A LOT OF QUESTIONS ABOUT EGGMAN, BUT HE CAN'T BE THE PRIORITY RIGHT NOW.

I COULDN'T FIND CHARMY— COULDN'T *SAVE* HIM.* POOR KID GOT WRAPPED UP IN SOMETHING WAY TOO BIG FOR HIMSELF. AND IF THE SAME THING HAPPENS TO HER...

*STH#17

STOP IT. THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT EGGMAN WANTS ME TO DO. GOTTA KEEP MOVING. GOTTA PROTECT MY FRIENDS *HERE*.

"GOTTA FIND CREAM!"

CREAM! CLOSE THE SHUTTERS AND GET AWAY FROM THE WINDOW!

Y-YES, MOTHER!

OUR NEIGHBORS ARE IN TROUBLE! I SHOULD GO HELP!

THIS ISN'T LIKE YOUR ADVENTURES WITH AMY ROSE OR THE OTHERS! YOU'RE STILL A LITTLE GIRL, AND WE'RE *NOT* HEROES LIKE THEM!

BUT I'LL HAVE CHEESE WITH ME! HE'LL HELP LOOK AFTER ME! HE ALWAYS DOES!

CHAO-CHAO!

AND YOU'LL HAVE CHOCOLA TO LOOK AFTER YOU!

YOU'RE A BRAVE AND NOBLE LITTLE GIRL, AND I KNOW YOU'VE DONE SOME AMAZING THINGS. BUT I CAN'T ALLOW YOU TO GO OUT THERE. STAY IN HERE AND PROTECT OUR HOME, OKAY?

=SIGH= YES, MOTHER.

IF I STAY TO PROTECT THE HOUSE, WILL YOU GO AND HELP THE VILLAGE, GEMERL?

REQUEST ACKNOWLEDGED. PROCEEDING TO ASSIST VILLAGE DEFENSES TO PROTECT CREAM, VANILLA, AND FAMILY.

EVEN WITH A LOW POPULATION DENSITY, THIS VILLAGE IS SUCCUMBING RAPIDLY TO THE METAL VIRUS.

SUCH EFFICIENCY IS THE SIGN OF A TRUE GENIUS, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?

ATTENTION ALL ZOMBOTS! PILE UP ON SONIC! LET'S SEE HIM RUN OFF A FULL INFECTION!

HUH. LUCKY BREAK!

CREAM? WHERE ARE YA, KIDDO?

UH... THEY AIN'T MOVIN', BOSS. NOT IN THE WAY YOU TOLD THEM TO, AT LEAST.

WHAT?!

ACTUALLY, BOSS, THERE'S BEEN A STEADY DECLINE IN ZOMBOTS RESPONDING TO YOUR VOICE COMMANDS SINCE WE STARTED.

HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?

WELL... IT *IS* A VIRUS. SPREADING FROM EXPOSURE MAY BE PROMPTING RANDOM MUTATIONS IN THE CODING.

"MAY"? DIDN'T YOU ACCOUNT FOR THAT POSSIBILITY?

IT'S WORKING, ISN'T IT? LIKE YOU SAID, THE METAL VIRUS IS SPREADING AS INTENDED. I CAN WORK OUT THE BUGS IN POST.

BUT IF THIS GETS OUT OF CONTROL—

THEN I'LL FIND A WAY TO CONTROL IT!

NNNGH... YOU'VE RUINED MY GOOD MOOD. I'M GOING TO GET SOMETHING TO EAT.

ORBOT... MAY I CONFIDE IN YOU?

PROVIDED YOU KEEP MY NEXT BREAK A SECRET?

...YES?

DEAL! NOW THEN—WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

EVER SINCE HE STARTED HIS CONQUEST OF THIS WORLD, I'VE BEEN ***FASCINATED*** BY DR. EGGMAN. HIS BRILLIANCE, HIS TENACITY, HIS CHARISMA.

I DEVOTED MYSELF TO ROBOTICS AND THE SEARCH FOR ARCANE POWERS BECAUSE OF HIM. WHENEVER I REACHED AN IMPASSE IN MY RESEARCH, I'D ASK MYSELF: "WHAT WOULD EGGMAN DO?"

I'VE DONE SO MUCH, DRIVEN BY WHAT I ***THOUGHT*** I KNEW ABOUT HIM, BUT...

I'D ALWAYS ASSUMED SONIC DEFEATED HIM BECAUSE HE WAS SO UNNATURALLY POWERFUL. BUT NOW IT LOOKS LIKE THE REAL CAUSE IS EGGMAN CAN'T PLAN FOR OR ADAPT TO THE LONG-TERM.

EH... IT'S ABOUT FIFTY-FIFTY TO BE HONEST. BIG IDEA, BIG EXECUTION, SONIC SHOWS UP, "I HATE THAT HEDGEHOG," BIG EXPLOSIONS. RINSE. REPEAT.

CLANG

A SHUTTLE IS COMING TO EVACUATE EVERYONE! HEAD NORTH TO THE GLADE!

EVERY HIT I LAND ON THESE ZOMBOTS MAKES MY INFECTION SPREAD FASTER.

I NEED TO GO FOR A RUN TO BURN IT OFF, BUT I CAN'T LEAVE THE VILLAGERS YET. I CAN'T JUST RUN IN PLACE OR DO DONUTS—WON'T BE FAST ENOUGH.

STILL HAVEN'T FOUND CREAM, EITHER. MAYBE SHE'S HOLED UP AT HER PLACE? I'M PRACTICALLY THERE, SO—

POW

OW! DID YOU CROSS SOME WIRES, GEMERL? I THOUGHT WE WERE FRIENDS?!

SONIC. DESIGNATION: FRIEND. ANALYSIS: INFECTED WITH SAME MATERIAL AS VILLAGERS.

ASSESSMENT: YOU WILL TRANSFORM TOO. HIGHEST LEVEL THREAT TO CREAM'S SAFETY. I WILL NOT ALLOW THAT.

FAIR ENOUGH. BUT I CAN KEEP IT UNDER CONTROL, G.

ASSESSMENT: INFECTION HAS SPREAD BEYOND FIFTY PERCENT. CONVERSION IMMINENT. YOU ARE AN *IMMEDIATE* THREAT.

I CAN RUN IT OFF! OR MAYBE YOU CAN HELP? YOU CAN BOND WITH MACHINES, RIGHT? YOU COULD BOND WITH ME, OR ANOTHER ZOMBOT, AND—

NEGATIVE. METALLIC VIRUS INFRASTRUCTURE INCOMPATIBLE. I CANNOT CONTROL IT. IT CANNOT INFECT ME. ELIMINATION IS ONLY OPTION.

GEMERL— *NO!*

IF YOU CAN REDUCE YOUR THREAT LEVEL BY RUNNING, THEN RUN.

THERE ARE STILL PEOPLE WHO NEED MY HELP!

YOU CANNOT HELP. YOU ARE A THREAT. REDUCE THREAT LEVEL OR BE ELIMINATED.

I CAN'T FIGHT YOU *AND* THE ZOMBOTS! QUIT BEING A JERK!

TOP PRIORITY: KEEP CREAM SAFE. YOUR COMPLIANCE IS NOT MANDATORY.

WARNING: ARMING MISSILES.

FINE! HAVE IT YOUR WAY!

PRIMARY THREAT NEUTRALIZED. CHANGING TARGETS TO INFECTED VILLAGERS.

COMMENCING PURGE.

BAPA-

BAPA-

BOOM

GEMERL! STOP IT!

CREAM IS OUTSIDE DESIGNATED SAFE ZONE. PLEASE RECTIFY.

YOU'VE GOT TO STOP!

I MUST PROTECT CREAM.

CREAM COMMANDS I DO NOT. PLEASE SPECIFY PARAMETERS.

YOU CAN PROTECT US, BUT YOU'RE GOING TOO FAR!

PROXIMITY TO RESIDENCE HAS REMAINED NO GREATER THAN TWENTY METERS.

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN!

YOU ATTACKED *SONIC!* HE'S OUR *FRIEND!* HE WOULD NEVER DO ANYTHING TO HURT US! YOU *KNOW* THAT!

SONIC IS INFECTED. SONIC IS A THREAT.

SONIC IS A *VICTIM!* I ASKED YOU TO PROTECT THE VILLAGE, AND YOU ATTACKED SOMEONE TRYING TO SAVE IT!

I... MAY HAVE NOT OPERATED OPTIMALLY...

AND THESE ZOMBOTS ARE VICTIMS TOO! YOU CAN'T GO BLOWING THEM UP!

LOGIC ERROR. ZOMBOTS ARE A THREAT. PLEASE SPECIFY.

THEY DIDN'T WANT TO BE ROBOTS! THEY DON'T *WANT* TO DO BAD THINGS! YOU SHOULDN'T PUNISH THEM BECAUSE EGGMAN IS MAKING THEM DO IT!

"EGGMAN MADE YOU INTO A SCARY ROBOT TOO, REMEMBER?

"ALL YOU DID WAS FIGHT AND DESTROY.

"BUT MY FRIENDS *DIDN'T* DESTROY *YOU*. TAILS *FIXED* YOU. YOU GOT TO COME LIVE WITH ME."

DON'T THEY DESERVE A CHANCE TO BE FIXED?

SHOULDN'T THEY HAVE A CHANCE TO BE HAPPY?

THOK

NEW MISSION PARAMETERS ACCEPTED. ONLY NON-LETHAL FORCE AUTHORIZED. DELAY. DETAIN. DISABLE. *DO NOT* DESTROY.

HOORAY! THANK YOU! BE SURE TO APOLOGIZE TO SONIC WHEN HE GETS BACK!

ACKNOWLEDGED.

AAAHHH!

MOTHER?

GEMERL! SONIC! HELP!

WHOA... YOU'RE SONIC, AREN'T YOU? HOW COME YOU TAKE THAT KID CREAM ON ADVENTURES AND NOT SOMEONE LIKE ME?

WELL, SHE'S A GREAT KID. LOTS OF POTENTIAL.

BUT REAL QUICK: *WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!*

WELL... IF I BURN DOWN THE FOREST BEFORE THE INFECTION SPREADS, WE ALL WON'T GET CHANGED.

NO, YOU'LL ALL JUST *BE CONSUMED BY FLAMES INSTEAD!*

WELL... UM...

CREAM GETS TO HANG WITH ME BECAUSE SHE'S GOT SOME SENSE!

CREAM! *RUN!*

POW

NO! DON'T TOUCH IT!

STOP IT! JUST COME WITH ME!

CHAO.

CHAO!

CHOCOLA! DON'T!

CHAO! CHAO!

BAP

CHAO! CHAO-CHAO-CHAO!

CHAO-CHAO...

NO! WE CAN'T LEAVE THEM!

I JUST GOT CLEAN! WHY DO YOU GUYS HAVE TO KEEP—

CREAM? KIDDO, I NEED YOU IN THE HERE AND NOW.

THIS IS BAD, BUT CHEESE WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO GET CAUGHT. HE'D WANT YOU TO BE BRAVE.

I NEED YOU TO BE BRAVE. JUST LIKE ALL OUR TIMES BEFORE, OKAY?

=SNIFF= O-OKAY...

I KNOW YOU CAN DO THIS. GET YOUR MOM TO THE NORTH GLADE AND GET TO SAFETY. WE'LL GET EVERYONE OUT OF HERE, THEN FIND A WAY TO FIX THIS—RIGHT?

YEAH.

THANK YOU, MR. SONIC! TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF!

I'LL BE FINE. KEEP SAFE.

KID'S GOING TO GROW UP INTO SOMEONE AMAZING...

WHOA!

SLAM

THANKS.

YOU ARE WELCOME. I AM SORRY.

THAT WAS FAST. JUST HOW I LIKE IT.

CREAM AND VANILLA ARE HEADING FOR THE NORTH GLADE. YOU MAKE SURE THE SHUTTLE GETS OFF OKAY. I'LL COVER YOU HERE.

UNDERSTOOD. INITIATING NEW MISSION PARAMETERS.

OH NO, YOU DON'T!

ZOMBOTS ON THE GROUND? I CAN TRIP THEM UP.

YOU TWO FLYING AROUND? *THAT* COULD CAUSE SOME TROUBLE. SORRY, GUYS.

SONIC? THIS IS ROUGE. DO YOU COPY?

YO, I COPY.

ARE YOU BUSY?

JUST WRAPPING UP SOME PERSONAL BUSINESS. WHAT'S UP?

I JUST GOT INTEL THAT EGGMAN IS EN ROUTE TO SUNSET CITY.

SHADOW AND OMEGA ARE ALREADY HEADING THERE TO INTERCEPT, BUT...

YOU WOULDN'T MIND SOME EXTRA HELP. GOT IT! SEE YOU THERE!

I HEARD EGGMAN TRY TO TURN THE VILLAGE AGAINST ME. IF HE CONVERTS ANOTHER CITY, THAT'LL BE EVEN MORE ZOMBOTS HE CAN'T CONTROL.

THIS'LL GO FROM BAD, TO WORSE, TO NIGHTMARE OVERNIGHT!

I BETTER PUSH IT AND GET THERE AS FAST AS I CAN...

"...I AM NOT LOSING ANOTHER FRIEND TO THIS!"

NEXT TIME: SONIC & TEAM DARK BATTLE FOR SUNSET CITY!

Hey Squad! No letters this month, but as a special treat, enjoy this preview of this summer's Tangle & Whisper mini-series! Don't miss out on this fantastically fun story about some of our favorite characters and their friends.

Meanwhile, even without the Letters Squad, don't forget to send your art and letters to letters@idwpublishing.com, and make sure to mark them: "OKAY TO PRINT!" And join the IDW Sonic Comics Squad on Facebook! We'll see you next issue in Sunset City!

Without further ado…

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
TANGLE & WHISPER

TANGLE & WHISPER EXCLUSIVE PREVIEW!

TANGLE!

HEY-HEY, JEWEL! ABOUT TIME YOU GOT OUT OF THAT STUFFY OL' MUSEUM!

BECAUSE YOU NEARLY KNOCKED THE SIGN OFF FROM OVER MY DOOR. AND YOU'RE GOING TO RUN INTO SOMEBODY.

PSSHT! I'VE BEEN FLINGING MYSELF AROUND THESE STREETS SINCE WE WERE LITTLE.

I KNOW EVERY ROOFTOP, ALLEY, AND STREET CORNER LIKE THE BACK OF MY—

WHAM

TANGLE.

HEYA, RON. A COUPLE OF CHILIDOGS TO GO...?

LATER—JEWEL'S MINERAL MUSEUM.

HOW'S YOUR HEAD?

NOT AS SORE AS MY PRIDE. AMBUSHED BY A STATIONARY OBJECT. HOW EMBARRASSING IS THAT?

TO BE FAIR, IT WAS HIDING IN FRONT OF A STREET LAMP. CLEARLY IT WAS OUT TO GET YOU.

HA HA OW HA HA

SERIOUSLY, THOUGH, WHAT'S GOING ON? YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN... PRECOCIOUS... BUT YOU'VE BEEN BOUNCING OFF THE WALLS LATELY.

LITERALLY *AND* FIGURATIVELY.

I'M SORRY FOR BEING A PEST, IT'S JUST...

...AFTER EVERYTHING I'VE DONE WITH SONIC, THINGS ARE SO *BORING* HERE!

I FOUGHT ROBOT INVASIONS! FLYING BATTLE SHIPS!

I MET A FIERY PRINCESS FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION!

I PULLED THE WINGS OFF A GIANT ROBO-DRAGON!

AND I COME HOME TO PEACE AND QUIET. I CAN'T STAND IT.

YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT. SO WHAT'S STOPPING YOU FROM BEING LIKE SONIC? GOING OUT THERE AND FINDING YOUR OWN ADVENTURES?

I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT. SURE, IT'S *TEMPTING*, BUT WHAT IF SOMETHING DOES HAPPEN HERE?

EGGMAN'S ROBOTS ATTACKED ONCE.*

IT COULD HAPPEN AGAIN.

*SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #4.

AND IT'D BE THE FIRST TIME YOU'D BE FLYING SOLO. LONELY BEFORE YOU EVEN LEAVE?

THAT, AND NERVOUS. I WOULDN'T HAVE YOU TO WATCH MY BACK.

-INFO-

CRASH

PLEASE DON'T TELL ME THE BABYLON ROGUES CAME BACK!*

I'LL CHECK IT OUT! YOU HIDE AND TRY NOT TO LOOK EXPENSIVE— *HAHA!*

*SONIC THE HEDGEHOG ANNUAL 2019.

SONIC?

SONIC UNDER ATTACK?!

SONIC UNDER ATTACK FROM *WHISPER*?!

TO BE CONTINUED IN *SONIC: TANGLE & WHISPER* #1 ON SALE THIS JULY!

IDW
ISSUE
1

BALTAZAR

AW YEAH REVOLUTION!

BY ART BALTAZAR

FREE DIGITAL ASHCAN

TAKE A PEEK AT ANOTHER AWESOME SERIES YOU MAY LIKE...

AW YEAH REVOLUTION!

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Special thanks to Hasbro's Derryl Depriest, David Erwin, Grant Gie, Ed Lane, Ben Montano, Mark Weber, Beth Artale, Josh Feldman and Michael Kelly

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BEYOND OUR GALAXY...

...DEEP WITHIN THE COSMOS...

...BEYOND ALL SPACE AND TIME...

...EXISTS THE ULTIMATE EVIL!

IN THE LAND OF MICROSPACE...

...THE HOME OF...

...BARON KARZA!

THE AW YEAH REVOLUTION! HAS BEGUN!

BY ART BALTAZAR

I TELL YOU, ANDROMEDA!

THIS SNAKE EYES CHARACTER IS PRETTY COOL!

WHAT A GUY!

I NEED HIM IN MY COLLECTION!

SNAKE EYES IS MY FAVORITE SUPER HERO FOR SURE!

AW YEAH REVOLUTION!

BUT, HENCE!

CHILLAXING TIME HAS COME TO AN END, GOOD BROTHER!

OUR EVIL BIDDING AND PLANNING MUST CONTINUE!

I PROPOSE OUR FIRST MISSION IS TO ACQUIRE THE ULTIMATE POWER IN THE UNIVERSE!

BUT WHERE DO WE START, YOU ASK?

I HAVE LOCATED THIS POWER IN A NEARBY SYSTEM!

A SOLAR SYSTEM TO BE PRECISE!

MORE PRECISELY...

...EARTH!

THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL IT!

AND HIDDEN WITHIN THIS EARTH...

...IS THE ORBSAH GEM! THE MYSTICAL ANCIENT ARTIFACT!

IT JUST SO HAPPENS TO BE THE TOPIC OF CONTROVERSY AMONG SOME GIANT ROBOT BEINGS!

THOSE DREADED TRANSFORMERS!

HA!

THEY WILL BE NO MATCH FOR THE MIGHT OF THE EVIL BARON KARZA!

PET PET

AND YOU, TOO, ANDROMEDA.

HA!

AND TOGETHER, WE CAN CAUSE MUCH CHAOS!

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1

BALTAZAR

AW YEAH REVOLUTION!

BY ART BALTAZAR

TO BE CONTINUED IN...

REVOLUTION: AW YEAH! #1